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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: NINOMIYA, et al

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: August 22, 2001

For: STORAGE SYSTEM

Group: 2812

Examiner: S. Whitmore

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 22, 2001

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted prior to the Rule 53(b) Continuation Application filed on even date.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert before the first line of the specification the following:

-- This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/440,285, filed November 15, 1999, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/013,039, filed January 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,012,119; which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/819,625, filed March 17, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,819,054; which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/267,013, filed June 21, 1994, now abandoned. --